

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1967

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INFO USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 2215

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF 12 MARCH 1974

BEGIN SUMMARY: GROUP, UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF TURKISH REP (TUREL) DISCUSSED US DELREPORT OF 11 MARCH INFORMAL MEETING WITH EASTERN REPS (SEPTOL) AND HEARD CANADINA REP'S (GRANDE) REPORT OF HIS BRIEFING OF ROMANINA DELEGATION ON THREE MEETINGS PRECEDING 11 MARCH MEETING. GROUP AGREED THAT 11 MARCH MEETING, WHICH FOCUSED ON NUCLEAR AND AIR FORCES, PRODUCED NO NEW MATERIALS OR ARGUMENTS FROM THE EASTERN SIDE. GROUP CONSIDERED EASTERN REPS TO HAVE BEEN NOT WELL PREPARED; EASTERN ARGUMENTS WERE CONTRADICTORY, AND BASED MORE ON PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS THAN SUBSTANTIVE. GROUP FELT THAT EASTERN DESIRE FOR FREEZE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS EVIDENCED AT 11 MARCH MEETING WAS PROBABLY MOTIVATED BY CONCERN OF MODERNIZATION OF NATO NUCLEARS AND

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POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF IMPROVED MININUKES. GROUP ALSO NOTED

THAT EAST MIGHT HAVE IN MIND LIMITS ON TRAINING FLIGHTS BY US AIRCRAFT INTO REDUCTION AREA AFTER AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

DISCUSSION OF 11 MARCH INFORMAL MEETING

1. CHAIRM (TURKISH REP TUREL INVITED COMMENTS ON INFORMAL MEETING WITH EASTERN REPS BY ALLIED PARTICIPANTS. UK REP SAID THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE NEW ON EITHER SIDE. THE BRIEFING MATERIAL PROVIDED BY THE AHG WAS WELL CONCEIVED AND HAD PROVIDED ANSWERS TO MOST OF THE ARGUMENTS OF THE EASTERN SIDE. IN HIS VIEW, THE ALLIES HAD THE BEST OF THE ARGUMENT. THE EASTERN ARGUMENTS WERE POORLY COORDINATED, AND IN PARA. 37 SOVIET REP HAD ACTUALLY KICKED THE BALL THROUGH HIS OWN GOAL -- WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ALLIES WITH GOOD MATERIAL FOR THE 14 MARCH MEETING. UK REP CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT MEETINGS CONTINUED ON GOOD ATMOSPHERE. UK REP AGREED WITH US EVALUATION OF MEETING AS A STANDOFF.

2. US REP CONCURRED WITH UK REP'S EVALUATION AND ADDED THAT WARSAW PACT HAD EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN PERSHING'S AND GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH OUR FORCES. NETHERLANDS REP (QUALRES) SAID HE SHARED UK REP'S VIEW THAT EASTERN REPS WERE POORLY PREPARED AND NOTED THAT THEIR ARGUMENTS WERE LARGELY PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE. HE CITED EASTERN REFERENCES TO PUBLIC OPINION AND THE GREAT DANGER POSED BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. EASTERN REPS HAD NOT RESPONDED TO HIS MANY ATTEMPTS TO ELICIT REPLY ON HOW NUCLEAR WEAPONS WERE TO BE REDUCED. THEY HAD BRUSHED ASIDE TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND RESTRICTED THEMSELVES TO SAYING WHY SUCH WEAPONS SHOULD BE REDUCED. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE EAST APPEARED MAINLY INTERESTED IN A CEILING AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUS QUO IN CENTRAL EUROPE BECAUSE OMISSION OF NUCLEARS FROM AN AGREEMENT MIGHT LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN NUCLEAR AND AIR FORCES. IN RELATIVE TERMS THEY HAD SEEMED LESS INTERESTED IN REDUCTION OF THESE WEAPONS. THEY ARGUED THAT THE MAIN TASK WAS TO REDUCE CONFRONTATION.

3. CHAIRMAN ASKED FOR COMMENTS BY OTHERS. BELGIAN REP NOTED THAT BOTH EAST AND WEST HAD ADHERED IN THE DISCUSSION TO THE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT ON SUBJECT MATTER, WHICH CONFIRMED THE AHG'S OPTIMISM ON THIS MATTER AT THE START OF THIS SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS.

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GREEK REP (DOUNTAS), REFERRED TO SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS OF THE REPORT IN WHICH EASTERN REPS HAD APPEARED TO PLACE EMPHASES ON PREVENTION OF INCREASES IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS RATHER THAN REDUCTIONS. HE ASKED WHETHER GROUP WISHED TO ATTACH ANY SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS. UK REP REPLIED THAT THESE PASSAGES REVEAL THAT THE EAST IS AIMING AT A FREEZE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT THAT IN PARA 7 (SEE SEPTTEL) SOVIET REP ALSO MENTIONED PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT IN WHICH TERMS OF REDUCTION WOULD BE PRECISELY DEFINED AND MOREOVER,

SOVIET REP, AT THIS POINT WAS SPEAKING FROM PREPARED NOTES.
UK REP FELT, THEREFORE, THAT NO CONCLUSIONS COULD BE DRAWN FROM
PARAS MENTIONED BY GREEK REP THAT EAST WAS MORE INTERESTED IN
FREEZE THAN REDUCTION OF THESE WEAPONS.

4. FRG DEP REP (HOFMANN) NOTED SOVIET DEP REP'S REFERENCE,
IN PARA 19, TO USE OF MININUKES AS CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. THIS
SUBJECT WAS BEING OPENLY DISCUSSED AS A POSSIBILITY IN THE US
PRESS, HE SAID, AND THE EAST MUST BE AWARE OF THIS AND IS PROBABLY
FEARFUL THAT AN INCREASE IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE REDUCTION
AREA WILL EMERGE FROM THIS DEVELOPMENT. ITALIAN REP AGREED
AND ADDED THAT THIS MAY EXPLAIN WARSAW PACT'S INSISTENCE ON
A FREEZE. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT ALLIES MUST PRESERVE
OPTION OF MODERNIZATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, INCLUDING INTRODUCTION
OF MININUKES, AND SHOULD REFRAIN

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDE-00 NEA-10 DRC-01 CIAE-00

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FROM BEING DRAWN INTO SUCH A DISCUSSION.

5. NETHERLANDS REP, REFERRED TO A LONG EXPOSE BY CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN IN PARA. 23 ON THE ROLE OF AIR POWER ON THE NATO SIDE BEING FILLED BY AIRCRAFT OUTSIDE THE REDUCTION AREA. THIS IMPLIED TO HIM THAT AIRCRAFT BASED OUTSIDE THE GUIDELINES AREA WOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM FLYING TRAINING MISSIONS INTO THE AREA AFTER AGREEMENT. US DEP REP CONCLUDED THAT THIS SEEMED A CORRECT INTERPRETATION.

BILATERALS

6. CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) REPORTED ON HIS BRIEFING OF ROMANIAN REP (ANINOIU) DEP REP (POPESCU) AND
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DELOFF (DUTA) CONCERNING THE CONTENTS OF THE THREE INFORMAL MEETINGS PRECEDING THAT OF MARCH 11. FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE HAD USED THE SUMMARIES OF INFORMAL SESSIONS PREPARED BY THE US DEP REP BUT HAD NOT QUOTED VERBATIM FROM THEM. ROMANIAN REP EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION AND REPEATED, SOMEWHAT MORE MILDLY, HIS OPPOSITION, PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED TO UK REP, TO THESE INFORMAL MEETINGS AS AN IMPROPER FORUM FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT DID NOT THREATEN TO RAISE THE SUBJECT IN A PLENARY MEETING AS HE HAD BEFORE. ROMANIAN REP SHOWED MOST INTEREST IN THE ALLIED USE OF CONCEPT OF QUOTE FIXED PERIOD OF TIME UNQUOTE BETWEEN PHASES AND IN SOVIET REP'S PROPOSAL OF A LIMIT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF FORCES FROM OUTSIDE THE REDUCTIONS AREA. ROMANIAN REP ASKED IF THIS WERE PART OF SOVIET REP'S PROPOSAL OF AN AGREEMENT ON SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS. CANADIAN REP REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT CLEAR. ROMANIAN REP SAID THAT HE WAS RECEIVING MUCH MORE INFORMATION ON THE INFORMAL MEETINGS THAN HE WAS RECEIVING FROM HIS SOCIALIST COLLEAGUES. CANADIAN REP CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT BRIEFING OF ROMANIAN REP WAS IN HIS VIEW USEFUL AND SHOULD BE DONE AFTER EVERY TWO INFORMAL MEETINGS IN VIEW OF THE BULK OF THE MATERIAL.

7. GREEK REP WONDERED WHETHER GROUP COULD BE SURE THAT ROMANIAN REP WAS NOT BRIEFING SOVIET REP ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE ALLIES ON THE CONTENT OF THESE MEETINGS. UK REP REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT IT VERY UNLIKELY SINCE ALLIES WOULD QUICKLY GET A COMPLAINT FROM SOVIET REP IF THIS WERE TRUE. ROMANIAN REP WAS A COMPETENT DIPLOMAT AND REALIZED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD DRY UP HIS SOURCE OF

INFORMATION. NETHERLANDS REP COMMENTED THAT SOVIET
REP WOULD FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.

8. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT NEXT AHG MEETING WOULD
BE HELD ON 13 MARCH.HUMES

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